

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Before discussing the Examiner's specific points set forth below, Applicant believes it would be beneficial to briefly outline applicant's invention and compare it to the prior art referenced by the Examiner. Paragraph numbers under the Rackmaster Systems, Inc. heading below are intended to correspond to similar paragraph numbers under the referenced prior art.

Rackmaster Systems, Inc. ("RMSI") invention

1. A remote monitoring system for monitoring the conditions of computer chassis components, such as chassis fan speed, power supply voltages, internal temperatures, etc.
2. Operates as an independent system, not dependent on the operating system or computing components (motherboard, processor, etc.) on the monitored computer.
3. Remote monitor can be connected independently to each monitored computer.
4. Uses detector arrays residing on the monitored computers to sense the condition of the computer components in real time based on information received from the detector arrays. The detector arrays do not need to be coupled in a software environment with other computers, unlike Wooley and Wilson. The detector array measurements are compared to preset acceptance standards set by a user to establish a fault condition.
5. A controller is connected to the detector arrays to continuously generate condition information in real time. The controller does not interact with the primary processor at all. Data is stored dynamically, meaning once the next sequence of condition data is available, the previous condition data is erased.

Wookey

1. A remote monitoring system for monitoring the system performance of the computer components (processor performance, network speeds, etc.); does not monitor the conditions of the chassis components
2. Operates beneath the operating system of the monitored computer
3. The computers are coupled together in a distributed computing environment; one computer is a master, the rest are slaves to the master
4. Uses diagnostic programs located on client computers running at scheduled times to

identify hardware and software faults.

5. Diagnostic information is stored in a database and retrieved periodically for post-processing of information. The information is sent from the slave computers to the master computer to a remote service center. Communications are initiated by the service center.

Wilson

1. A remote monitoring system for monitoring the system performance of the computer components (processor performance, network speeds, etc.); does not monitor the conditions of the chassis components
2. Operates beneath the operating system of the monitored computer
3. The computers are coupled together in a distributed computing environment
4. MUM agents knowledgeable of application protocols are coupled to the communication stack for monitoring the data that is being passed between a client computer and a network server. The system is programmed to identify trigger events and when such events occur, a controller is notified of the occurrence of the event.
5. A controller forwards the information to the server upon the occurrence of a trigger event. Data is stored on a central database.

In response to the Examiner's rejections identified below, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 25, 38 and 46 to emphasize that Applicant's invention tracks computer component conditions, not component performance. Knowing the status of computer component conditions is very important since erroneous diagnostic test readings can occur due to faulty components. The independent claims have also been amended to emphasize that Applicant's system operates independently of the processor of the monitored computer through a controller and that the detector arrays monitor computer component conditions dynamically.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected Claims 25-31, 34, 46-48, 50-51 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wookey U.S. Patent 6,023,507.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 25, Wookey teaches in a network of computing stations, a monitoring station for tracking conditions at the other computing stations in the network, said monitoring station including: a monitoring station processor (column 3, lines 35-48); a selector for determining a set of remote computing stations to be monitored from a monitoring station that includes the monitoring station processor (column 8, lines 31-51); a monitoring component operably associated with the selector and adapted to send cues in a sequence to the selected remote computing stations, thereby to cause each selected computing station to generate a condition record including computing station address information and condition information indicating at least one sensed condition at the computing station, and to present the condition record for retrieval by the monitoring station; said monitoring component being further adapted to retrieve the condition records presented by the computing stations; and a monitoring station memory including a first memory segment for storing a list of addresses individually identifying the remote computing stations (column 8, lines 31-51; column 9, lines 4-6; column 14, lines 7-14); wherein the monitoring station processor is adapted to generate a warning in response to receiving a condition record with a fault indication (column 4, lines 36-45); and wherein the monitoring component and the selector are configured to operate transparently to a user of the monitoring station processor until said processor generates a warning (column 5, lines 61-66).

In Applicant's monitoring system, the controller in each computing stations is constantly generating condition information and can not be enabled or disabled remotely. Regardless of the remote monitoring station's presence, the controller will monitor the system for condition information and generate alerts. Claim 25 requires the condition record to have a fault indication, therefore no post-processing is required as taught by Wookey. Applicant's monitoring system tracks conditions of computer components in remote computing stations. The condition generator adapter is working at all times in each remote computing station generating condition information for retrieval by any monitoring station. There is no master-slave relation or a designation of service center computer. Wookey's invention describes sending diagnostic information from diagnostic tests to be stored for later evaluation.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 26, Wookey teaches the monitoring station of claim 25 further including: an image generator associated with the monitoring station memory, for generating visible images of the retrieved condition records, and a video display terminal operably coupled to the image generator and adapted to display the visible images, wherein the warning includes a visible image at the video display terminal (column 8, lines 31-51).

Applicant's claim 26 describes the creation of visual image to display a writing resulting from a fault condition. Wookey teaches the use of a GUI based tool as an administrator. In addition, Wookey (column 3, line 35-47) teaches test results to be stored for later user intervention to determine errors, a significant difference where claim 26 presents fault condition by a visual image.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 27, Wookey teaches the monitoring station of claim 25 wherein: the monitoring component is adapted to send the cues in multiple repetitions of said sequence, and the monitoring station includes a second memory segment adapted to dynamically store the condition records retrieved by the monitoring component to thereby contain the condition records related to a most current repetition of the sequence (column 5, lines 43-49).

Applicant's claim 27 describes that the data is dynamically stored, meaning no historical data is kept as described in Wookey. For dynamically stored data, once the next sequence of condition data is available, the previous condition data is erased.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 28, Wookey teaches the monitoring station of claim 25 wherein: the monitoring component comprises computer software in the form of a monitoring program resident in the monitoring station processor, adapted to generate and send the cues in accordance with input from the selection component (column 4, lines 8-12).

Independent claim 25 is believed allowable. Claim 28 is dependent on Claim 25 and is believed allowable.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 29, Wookey teaches the monitoring station of claim 28 wherein: the selector comprises an operator-controlled device linked to the monitoring station processor and configured to allow a system user to control said input (column 8, lines 31-51).

Independent claim 25 is believed allowable. Claim 29 is dependent on Claim 25 and is believed allowable.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 30, Wookey teaches the system of claim 28 wherein: the selector comprises computer software in the form of a selection program operably associated with the monitoring program and the first memory segment (column 8, lines 31-51).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the Wookey reference does not teach of a selector program, rather all of the monitors that exist on a subnet are monitored.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 31, Wookey teaches the monitoring station of claim 26 wherein: each of the condition records includes a plurality of condition information entries relating to different conditions sensed at the associated remote computing station, and the monitoring station incorporates an evaluation component for determining the presence of a fault with respect to each of the condition information entries (column 5, lines 8-19).

Independent claim 25 is believed allowable. Claim 31 is dependent on Claim 25 and is believed allowable.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 34, Wookey teaches the monitoring station of claim 25 wherein: each of the condition records retrieved from one of the remote computing stations includes a plurality of condition information entries relating to different conditions at the remote computing station (column 5, lines 8-19).

Applicant's monitoring system relates to monitoring of computer component conditions

sensed at the remote computing stations. Wookey envisions monitoring remote computer processes through the use of diagnostic tests and retrieval of test data.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 46, Wookey teaches a process for monitoring conditions at a plurality of remote computing stations, including: providing a detector array at each of a plurality of remote computing stations, and using each detector of each array to sense a condition at the associated station; using a controller at each station to receive a detector signal from each detector of the associated array, and to generate a condition signal corresponding to each detector signal, generating condition information at each computer station including a condition information entry corresponding to each condition signal (column 3, lines 34-61); assembling the condition information at each station, along with address information identifying that station, into a condition record associated with that station; sending a cuing signal from a monitoring computer to each of the remote computing stations (column 14, lines 8-14); responsive to receiving the cuing signal at each remote station, presenting the condition record associated with that station for retrieval by the monitoring computer; and using the monitoring computer to retrieve the presented condition records (column 5, lines 43-49).

Independent claim 25 is believed allowable. Claim 46 is dependent on Claim 25 and is believed allowable.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 47, Wookey teaches the process of claim 46 further including: entering a list of the remote computing stations into the monitoring computer, and causing the computer to send the cuing signals in a sequence to the remote computing stations on the list (column 5, lines 43-49; column 8, lines 31-51).

Applicant respectfully asserts that Wookey does not teach of entering a list of remote computing stations to be monitored.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 48, Wookey teaches the process of claim 47 further including: using a computer program resident in the monitoring

computer to cause multiple repetitions of said sequence (column 5, lines 43-49).

Applicant's claim relates to the program; Wookey describes the length of time test data is being stored.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 50, Wookey teaches the process of claim 47 wherein: entering the list comprises using an operator-controlled input device coupled to the monitoring computer (column 8, lines 31-51).

Applicant respectfully asserts that Wookey does not teach of entering a list of remote computing stations to be monitored.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 51, Wookey teaches the process of claim 46 wherein: each detector array includes a plurality of detectors, whereby the condition information associated with each remote computing station includes a plurality of condition information entries (column 3, lines 34-61).

Applicant's invention teaches monitoring of the condition of computer components, not running diagnostic tests during particular intervals (Wookey).

The Examiner rejected Claims 38-40, 42-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wilson et. al. U.S. Patent 6,714,976.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 38, Wilson teaches a self monitoring computing station, including: a primary processor disposed at a computing station (column 5, lines 27-30); a detector array at the computing station, including at least one detector adapted to sense a condition at the computing station and generate a detector signal indicating the sensed condition (column 5, lines 27-30); a controller coupled to receive the detector signal from each detector of the array, and adapted to generate a condition signal corresponding to each detector signal; a condition information generator coupled to receive each condition signal and adapted to generate condition information including a condition information entry based on each

received condition signal (column 6, lines 1-14); a memory at the computing station including a first memory sector for storing address information identifying the computing station, a second memory sector for dynamically storing the condition information, and a third memory sector for storing an acceptance standard corresponding to each condition information entry; and a comparator coupled to the second and third memory sectors, adapted to compare each condition information entry with its corresponding acceptance standard and each failure of a condition information *entry* to satisfy the corresponding acceptance standard (column 11, line 66 - column 12, line 9); wherein the condition information generator further is adapted to present a condition record including the address information and the condition information for retrieval by a remote monitoring station, in response to receiving a cue from the monitoring station (column 7, lines 58-65; column 5, lines 16-18).

Applicant claims the use of detector arrays to dynamically sense the condition of computer components based on measurements received from the detector arrays. MUM agents were described in Wilson to be modules monitoring events and performance. Data is collected when a trigger event occurs. The types of data collected by Wilson are irrelevant to Applicant's invention, where the latter involves monitoring computer component condition information pertaining to a computing station.

Applicant's invention teaches that the monitoring processor should have the addresses of the remote computers stored in the memory segment; Wilson teaches that the remote computer address is determined through a process.

The MUM agent as a software module is dependent of the primary processor of the remote computer. Applicant's system monitors computer component conditions without utilizing the primary processor of the computing station.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 39, Wilson teaches the computing station of claim 38 wherein: the detector array includes a plurality of detectors for detecting different conditions, and the condition information includes a plurality of condition information entries individually related to the different conditions (column 5, lines 27-35).

Applicant's invention uses detector arrays to monitor computer component conditions; Wilson teaches performance and configuration monitoring. The statement from this reference

“Accordingly, it is a realization of the invention that diagnostic analysis can employ more than a measure of server CPU performance” fails to specifically disclose Applicant’s invention of monitoring computer component conditions as measured by a detector array.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 40, Wilson teaches the computing station of claim 39 wherein: each of the condition records includes condition information entries corresponding to all of the different conditions (column 5, lines 27-35).

Applicant’s invention monitors condition of computer components; Wilson teaches performance and configuration monitoring.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 42, Wilson teaches the system of claim 39 wherein: each of the acceptance standards consists essentially of one of the following: a maximum value, a minimum value, and a range of values (column 11, line 66 - column 12, line 11).

Wilson teaches data collected may be used for evaluation to determine if a fault exists. Under Wilson, data collection occurs when a trigger event occurs. Applicant’s claim teaches use of pre-existing evaluation standards that will determine a fault condition. The types of data collected by Wilson are irrelevant to Applicant’s invention which involves monitoring computer component condition information of a computing station.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 43, Wilson teaches the computing station of claim 38 wherein the controller operates independently of the primary processor (column 6, lines 1-14).

The Wilson system is dependent upon the external events interface 52, which derives the event information from the primary processor of the computing system. This is a direct contradiction of Applicant’s system where the controller does not interact with the primary processor at all.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-6, 8-12, 15, 18, 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of Wookey stating:

The Examiner states:

As per claim 1, Wilson teaches a system for monitoring conditions at a plurality of computing stations remote from a monitoring station, wherein each computing station includes a primary processor and a chassis housing the primary processor; said system including: a plurality of detector arrays, each of the arrays located at a different one of a plurality of computing stations, each detector array including at least one detector adapted to sense a condition at the associated computing station and generate a detector signal indicating the sensed condition (column 5, lines 27-30); a plurality of controllers, each of the controllers located at an associated one of the computing stations and operatively coupled to the associated detector array to receive the detector signal from each detector of the associated array and generate a condition signal corresponding to each received detector signal; a plurality of condition information generators, each condition information generator located at an associated one of the computing stations, coupled to receive each associated condition signal, and adapted to generate condition information including a condition information entry based on each received condition signal (column 6, lines 1-14); a computing station memory at each computing station adapted to receive the associated condition information, including a first memory sector for storing address information identifying the associated computing station, and a second memory sector for dynamically storing the associated condition information; wherein each condition information generator further is adapted to present a condition record including the address information and the condition information for retrieval by a monitoring station, in response to receipt of a cue from the monitoring station (column 7, lines 58-65; column 5, lines 36-38)); and a monitoring station remote from the computing stations and communicatively coupled to the computing stations, including a monitoring station processor (column 4, lines 55-65). Wilson does not explicitly teach a selection component for individually selecting different ones of the computing stations, a monitoring component for generating cues and sending the cues to the selected computing stations, and an image generator adapted to generate visible images of the condition records presented in response to the cues and retrieved by the monitoring station. Wookey does teach a selection component for individually selecting different ones of the computing stations, a

monitoring component for generating cues and sending the cues to the selected computing stations, and an image generator adapted to generate visible images of the condition records presented in response to the cues and retrieved by the monitoring station (column 8, lines 31-51; column 9, lines 4-6; column 14, lines 7-14). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the process of Wookey in the process of Wilson. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use the process of Wookey in the process of Wilson because Wookey teaches his invention to be beneficial in the remote monitoring of distributed systems (column 1, lines 16-17); an explicit desire of Wilson (column 1, lines 15-20).

Applicant's monitoring system monitors computer component conditions (e.g. chassis fan speeds, internal temps); Wilson teaches monitoring performance of computer components (e.g. processor speeds, network speeds). Wilson teaches using MUM agents to monitor communications for trigger events; Applicant claims the use of detector arrays to sense conditions of computer components based on measurements received from the detector arrays.

Applicant's claim teaches storing the physical address of the monitoring station in a first memory segment, which is a direct contradiction of the Wilson Column 7, line 58-65 reference relating to resolving the IP address.

Both the Wookey and Wilson inventions relate to monitoring event information in a distributed computing environment. Applicant's invention is to monitor computer component condition information where managed systems are not required to be coupled in a software environment with other computers.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 2, Wilson in view of Wookey teaches the system of claim 1. Wookey teaches wherein: the monitoring component comprises computer software in the form of a monitoring program resident in the monitoring station processor, adapted to generate and send cues in accordance with selection input from the selection component (column 4, lines 8-12).

Applicant's monitoring program resides in each monitoring processor, a direct contradict of the reference of Wookey above where the software described resides in the remote service center. Applicant's invention monitors computer component condition information in real time,

another contradiction from Wookey's invention described as scheduled diagnostic tests.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 3, Wilson in view of Wookey teaches the system of claim 2. Wookey teaches wherein: the selection component comprises an operator-controlled device linked to the monitoring station processor and configured to allow a system user to control said selection input (column 8, lines 31-51).

Applicant teaches use of a device, not a GUI based tool, to be used to configure the monitoring system processor to select which inputs are to be included to obtain computer component condition information. Wookey does not teach of any requirement of a device for administrative purposes.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 4, Wilson in view of Wookey teaches the system of claim 2. Wookey teaches wherein: the monitoring station further includes a memory segment for storing computing station address information comprising a list of addresses identifying the computing stations, and said selection component comprises computer software in the form of a selection program operatively associated with the monitoring program and the first memory segment to select the computing stations from the list of addresses (column 8, lines 31-51; column 14, lines 7-14).

Independent claim 1 is believed allowable. Claim 4 is dependent on Claim 1 and is believed allowable.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 5, Wilson in view of Wookey teaches the system of claim 4. Wilson teaches wherein: the selection program and the monitoring program operate in the background, transparent to a user of the monitoring station processor (column 5, lines 62-66); and the monitoring station processor is adapted to generate a warning in response to receipt of a condition record including a fault indication (column 4, lines 36-45).

Independent claim 1 is believed allowable. Claim 5 is dependent on Claim 1 and is believed allowable.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 6, Wilson in view of Wookey teaches the system of claim 5. Wilson teaches wherein: the monitoring station further includes a video display terminal coupled to the monitoring station processor for displaying images of condition records, and the warning includes a visible image at the video display terminal (column 4, lines 55-67; figure 1).

Applicant claims that each monitoring station must have a video display terminal so that the condition of the computing station is visible to a user who is at the station. Wilson teaches one EM console (FIG 1. 42) coupled with each computing station, a contradiction of Applicant's claimed arrangement.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 8, Wilson in view of Wookey teaches the system of claim 1. Wilson teaches wherein: each of the detector arrays includes a plurality of detectors for detecting different conditions, and the condition information generated by each condition information generator includes a plurality of condition information entries individually relating to the different conditions (column 6, lines 1-14).

Wilson claim does not teach about detector array to detect condition information, rather event information gathered from a program running in the system (Wilson FIG. 2 item 72) which does not teach of any detector array presence in the system.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 9, Wilson in view of Wookey teaches the system of claim 8. Wilson teaches it further including: an evaluation component for determining, with respect to each of the condition entries, the presence of a fault (column 11, line 66 - column 12, line 9).

Wilson teaches data collected may be used for evaluation context, and data collection occurs when a trigger event occurs. Applicant claims a pre-existing evaluation component which will determine a fault condition.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 10, Wilson in view of Wookey teaches the system of claim 9. Wilson teaches wherein: each of the computing station memories further includes a third memory sector for storing acceptance standards individually associated with the conditions, and the evaluation component includes a comparator coupled to the second and third memory sectors at each computing station for individually comparing the acceptance standards with the condition information entries and generating a fault indication responsive to each failure of a condition information entry to satisfy the associated acceptance standard (column 11, line 66 - column 12, line 9).

Wilson teaches data collected may be used for evaluation context and data is collected when a trigger event occurs. Applicant claims use of preset acceptance standards set by the user to determine a fault condition.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 11, Wilson in view of Wookey teaches the system of claim 10. Wilson teaches wherein: each of the acceptance standards consists essentially of one of the following: a maximum value, a minimum value, and a range of values (column 11, line 65 - column 12, line 9).

Neither Wilson, nor Wookey claims or requires acceptance standards to be set.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 12, Wilson in view of Wookey teaches the system of claim 10. Wilson teaches wherein: each of the condition information entries consists essentially of one of: a value associated with the detected condition; a fault indication; and a combination of the value and the fault indication (column 11, line 66 - column 12, line 9).

This claim describes the requirement of the acceptable information entry. Wilson does not relate to the structure of the detector condition or how it will be presented with the associated outcome.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 15, Wilson in view of Wookey teaches the system of claim 1. Wilson teaches wherein: each of the controllers operates independently of its associated primary processor (column 6, lines 1-14).

The Wilson system is dependant upon the external events interface 52, which derives the event information from the primary processor of the computing system. This is a direct contradiction of Applicant's system where the controller does not interact with the primary processor at all.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 18, Wilson in view of Wookey teaches the system of claim 1. Wilson teaches wherein: each of the condition information generators comprises a computer program resident in a data storage environment near the associated controller, and the first sector of each computer station memory is resident in said data storage environment (column 6, lines 1-14).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited Wilson reference does not apply to this claim. Further, Independent claim 1 is believed allowable. Claim 18 is dependent on Claim 1 and is believed allowable.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 21, Wilson in view of Wookey teaches the system of claim 1. Wookey teaches wherein: the selection component comprises computer software in the form of a selection program resident in the associated monitoring station processor (column 8, lines 31-51).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the GUI based tool is an outcome of a software program and not considered a software program.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 22, Wilson in view of Wookey teaches the system of claim 21. Wilson teaches wherein: the selection program is written in a universal language and normally operates transparently to a

user of the monitoring station processor (column 5, lines 5-26).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the Examiner's reference speaks to the MUM agents that collect data and not to the selection program.

The Examiner rejected Claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of Wookey in further view of Microsoft Computer Dictionary (MCD) stating:

As per claim 19, Wilson in view of Wookey teaches the system of claim 1. Wilson teaches wherein: the selection component, the monitoring component and the image generator comprise computer programs resident in the monitoring station processor (column 6, lines 1-14; column 5, lines 62-66). Wilson does not teach the monitoring station memory includes a plurality of registers resident in the monitoring station processor. MCD does teach registers (page 379). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the register processor of MCD in the process of Wilson. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use the register processor of MCD in the process of Wilson because MCD teaches the registers to hold certain data; an explicit desire of Wilson (column 4, lines 59-61).

Independent claim 1 is believed allowable. Claim 19 is dependent on Claim 1 and is believed allowable.

The Examiner rejected Claims 36, 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wookey in view of MCD, stating:

As per claim 36, Wookey teaches the monitoring station of claim 26 wherein: the selector, the monitoring component and the image generator comprise computer programs resident in the monitoring station processor (column 8, lines 31-51; column 9, lines 4-6; column 14, lines 7-14). Wookey does not explicitly teach the monitoring station memory includes a plurality of registers resident in the monitoring station processor. MCD does teach registers (page 379). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the register processor of MCD in the process of Wilson. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use the register processor of MCD in the process of Wilson because MCD teaches the registers to hold certain data; an explicit desire of Wookey (column 4, lines 8-16).

Independent claim 1 is believed allowable. Claim 36 is dependent on Claim 1 and is believed allowable.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 36 [37?], Wookey teaches the monitoring station of claim 36 wherein: the selector and the monitoring component are written in a universal language (column 12, lines 18-23).

Wookey references each monitored computer sharing software. Applicant refers in its claim 37 to the programming aspect of the monitoring station that monitors the monitored computing stations, not software sharing.

The Examiner rejected Claims 52-53, 55, 57 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wookey in view of Wilson, stating:

As per claim 52, Wookey teaches the process of claim 51. Wilson teaches it further including: maintaining a list of acceptance standards associated with each remote computing station, comparing the acceptance standards with the associated condition information entries in a one-to-one correspondence, and generating a fault indication responsive to each failure of a condition information entry to satisfy the associated acceptance standard (column 11, line 66 - column 12, line 9). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the process of Wilson in the process of Wookey. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use the process of Wilson in the process of Wookey because Wilson teaches his invention to be beneficial in the remote monitoring of distributed systems (column 1, lines 15-20); an explicit desire of Wookey (column 1, lines 16-17).

Applicant respectfully asserts that neither Wilson nor Wookey teach maintaining a list of acceptance standard for monitoring conditions of a remote computing station.

Wilson teaches monitoring of distributed systems, where each computer in the network has to be coupled with each other to share information or program (Wilson Column 1, lines 15-20, Wookey column 2 lines 29-31). Applicant does not require the remote computing stations to be in a distributed computing environment. Applicant's monitored computers are not required to be coupled together.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 53, Wookey in view of Wilson teaches the process of claim 52. Wilson teaches wherein: said comparing the acceptance standards with the associated condition information entries is performed at each of the remote computing stations (column 11, line 66 - column 12, line 9).

Independent claim 1 is believed allowable. Claim 53 is dependent on Claim 1 and is believed allowable.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 55, Wookey teaches the process of claim 52 further including: generating visible images of the retrieved condition records (column 13, lines 33-42).

The Wookey reference discloses use of a GUI interface panel, but it does not disclose creation of a visible image of the retrieved condition records coming from the remote computing station.

The Examiner states:

As per claim 57, Wookey teaches the process of claim 52 further including: generating a warning at the monitoring computer in response to retrieving a condition information entry that includes a fault indication (column 4, lines 36-45).

Wookey teaches post-processing of collected data. Applicant claims generating a warning when a fault condition is detected and no post-processing is required.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to Claims 7, 13-14, 16-17, 20, 23, 24, 32-33, 35, 41, 44-45, 49, 54, 56, 58 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has modified the independent claims to address the references cited by the Examiner in the Office Action. The independent claims are believed allowable. The dependent claims, dependent on the independent claims, are believed allowable.



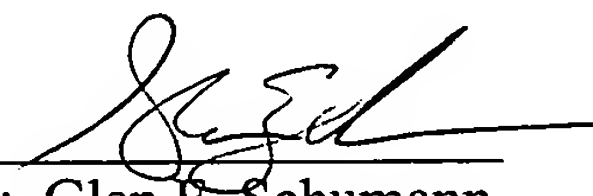
Conclusion

Applicant believes that the prior art references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose each and every required element of Applicant's claimed invention. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejections and objections.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submits that the Application, as amended, is in proper form for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this Application, then the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the below listed telephone number.

Applicants hereby authorizes the USPTO to charge deposit account 50-2442 any additional required fees, fees under §1.17, and/or all required extension of time fees.

Date: September 25, 2008

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